Washington Merry-go-round

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By Jack Anderson & Les Whitten

WASHINGTON — Some of the world's most sinister secret police are operating in the United States with the blessing of the Central Intelligence Agency. There is evidence that these foreign agents have arranged murders, committed burglaries, attempted kidnappings and terrorized political opponents in violation of U.S. laws.

In past columns, we have reported that the CIA has a secret understanding with such notorious foreign intelligence agencies as Chile's DINA, Iran's SAVAK and South Korea's KCIA. Not only does the CIA work closely with these police agencies; the agents operate within one another's countries by mutual consent.

Now the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has quietly started an investigation into the activities of foreign intelligence agencies in the United States. The committee is particularly curious about the CIA's role in these activities.

On the House side, Rep. Donald Fraser, D.-Minn., has also asked the CIA to divulge the details of its reciprocal arrangements with foreign intelligence agencies. The CIA has refused to cooperate.

As far back as July 17, 1975, we published charges that the KCIA had terrorized Korean exiles, had set up illegal front groups to manipulate U.S. public opinion and had tried to buy off U.S. congressmen. We also cited documents from SAVAK's files as evidence that the Iranian secret police were intimidating opponents of the shah in this country. The documents included detailed instructions on how to burglarize homes and offices.

In our reports on the Chilean police, we warned on Nov. 16, 1975: "There is reason to believe that DINA has hired thugs to track down and assassinate prominent exiles." Ten months later, Chileanexile leader Orlando Letelier was blown up in his car on Washington's embassy row. Investigators are now convinced that DINA hired Cuban killers to murder Letelier.

As additional evidence, we have now obtained an explosive document from DINA's own files. It is a memo, dated Sept. 16, 1975, from DINA chief Manuel Contreras Sepulveda to Chilean President Augusto Pinochet.

The memo requests "an additional allotment of $600,000 for the (DINA) budget." Among four reasons for the extra money, this was the most fascinating: "Additional expenses for the neutralizing of the principal adversaries of the Government Junta in the exterior, especially in Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, the United States, France and Italy."

We can only speculate of course, what the phrase "neutralizing of the principal adversaries" means. But the memo was follwed by an assassination attempt against Chilean dissident Bernardo Leighton on the streets of Rome. Then Letelier was dynamited to death on the streets of Washington.

The FBI also learned of murder plots against two other Chilean exiles. Gabriel Valdes and Rodomiro Tomic, who were given protection.

We hand-delivered a copy of the DINA memo to the Chilean embassy in Washington and waited a week while embassy officials examined it. A spokesman then denounced the document as "completely false." He said Contreras' signature was a "forgery." The fact that the memo was not written on a DINA letterhead, the spokesman asserted, was additional proof that the document was a fabrication.

The memo was delivered to us by sources who have been reliable in the past. For three weeks, we painstakingly checked it with a number of sources including U.S. officials. They all agreed it not only appeared genuine but was consistent with their own intelligence information.

A DINA defector now in asylum in the Italian embassy in Santiago, according to competent sources has confirmed the authenticity of the memo. We have also had access to other DINA documents, which the Chilean government has acknowledged are authentic. These resemble the disputed document in every detail. Many, incidentally, are not written on DINA letterhead.

Footnote: Interestingly, the document also requests "grants for officials of this department who are following courses in preparation of anti-guerrilla groups in the Training Center in the city of Manaus, Brazil."

LIMOUSINE COMFORT — President Carter is making life difficult for the limousine set. Not only has he deprived many government bigwigs of their chauffeur-driven limousines, but he has now ordered drivers to stop running their motors while they wait for their privileged passengers.

The big shots like their limousines to be warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Obliging chauffeurs usually idle the motors so the limousines will be comfortable when their bosses board them.

But a federal employee, writing to the National Suggestion Box, pointed out that both money and gasoline could be saved if the drivers would shut off the motors. White House aide Greg Schneiders delivered the suggestion directly to President Carter, who agreed with it.

The General Services Administration, which has the responsibility for the government motor pool, was notified. A "property management" regulation was promptly drawn up, directing all government drivers to stop idling their engines.

Footnote: The White House is also implementing other suggestions from the public. Suggestions should be addressed to the NATIONAL SUGGESTION BOX, Box 2009, Washington, D.C., 20013.